

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 6 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th February 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī"	Barāhanagar	4,000	Pous, 1284 B. S.
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ... ..	.....
3	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhowanipore ... ..	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
5	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ... ..	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Banga Hitaishi"	Bhowanipore ... ..	.....
7	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāligunj, Calcutta ... ..	.....	30th January 1878.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	658	
9	"Bhārat Sangskārak"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	28th ditto.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ... ..	.....
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	3rd February 1878.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	1st ditto.
13	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	1st ditto.
14	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	25th January and 1st February 1878.
15	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
16	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
17	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	5,500	2nd February 1878.
18	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	516	27th January 1878.
19	"Hindu Hitaishinī"	Dacca	300	2nd February 1878.
20	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhowanipore	700	4th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	28th January 1878.
22	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Bauleah, Rajshahye ... ..	.....	30th ditto.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rungpore	250	24th ditto.
24	"Burdwan Prachārikā"	Burdwan	165	
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
25	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta	4,000	29th January and 5th February 1878.
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Ditto	550	
27	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ... ..	.....	2nd to 7th February 1878.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	2nd, 5th, and 6th February 1878.
29	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ... ..	.....
30	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ... ..	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Amrita Bazar Patrikā"	Ditto	2,217	31st January 1878.
32	"Howrah Hitakarī"	Bethar, Howrah	300	3rd February 1878.
33	"Moorshedabad Patrikā"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	1st ditto.
34	"Burrisal Bārtābaha"	Burrisal	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
35	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	2nd ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
36	"Akhabār-ul-Akhiār"	Mozufferpore ... ..	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	6th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
38	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta	250	25th January and 1st February 1878.

POLITICAL.

SAHACHAR,
January 28th, 1878.

The *Sahachar*, of the 28th January, thus concludes an article headed, "England and Russia":—England has lost her prestige in Europe ; and it is asked on all sides, Are not the Russians going to fight with her for India? Every native of this country, the Government, and the whole world too, believe this to be the case ; and it is only a few British politicians that confide in the truth and honor of Russia. Within the last few years, England has been guilty of two great political blunders ; namely, first allowing France to fall, and second, disappointing the Turks after having encouraged them to fight with Russia. The latter would not have dared to enter upon this war, if the power of France had remained intact ; and, if assistance had been rendered to Turkey, England might have, in the event of India being threatened with danger, prevented the revolt of Mahomedans in Central Asia by only raising her little finger. These tribes in Central Asia will not any longer be deceived by her professions ; while Russia can at any moment make Persia and Afghanistan, England's enemies. Though such be the state of affairs abroad, in India, the Disarming Act is gradually made more stringent. The question therefore arises,—As the English Ministry have done many acts, which might justify Russia in declaring war, who would be able to oppose the march of three hundred thousand victorious Russian troops across Persia to this country? What will England do even if the evil day be put off for twenty years? We are gradually weakened. What will a few thousands of British troops, given to luxury, avail against Russia? England should beware, and learn to confide in natives. A conflict with Russia is inevitable ; and the British Government can only be victorious if, instead of weakening its native subjects, it begins to confide in them. There is not unfortunately a single statesman in England wise enough to conceive such a sentiment.

SOMA PRAKASH,
February 4th, 1878.

The position of England.

2. We extract the following observations from the opening article of the *Soma Prakash*, of the 4th February, headed, the "Lamentable condition of England—What should be done now?" We are really sorry to think of the lamentable position to which the war has reduced England. Such an untoward event never befel her before ; nor has she ever been so constantly subjected to insults. Truth to tell, compared with England, even the condition of Turkey is more dignified. The heroic Turks have, as far as it lay in their power, maintained their dignity ; and being now quite helpless and exhausted, are seeking peace at the hands of Russia. No one can blame them for it. There is nothing which would not become a dying man. We cannot, however, so clearly comprehend how it is that England, healthy and full of life, can brook repeated insults. Thanks to the imperturbable patience of the nation ! Even we, who are so weak, are growing impatient.

SOMA PRAKASH.

3. In another article, the same paper shows that Government has committed grave political blunders in not securing the friendship of the Ameer of Cabul, and in destroying the independence of the Sikhs. These two would have proved bulwarks of strength to the British Government in the event of a Russian invasion. All that now remains is, to raise a large native army, and conciliate the natives, by extending to them the same impartial consideration as is accorded to Europeans.

SOMA PRAKASH.

Rajah Rajendra Lall Mullick.

4. A correspondent of the same paper remarks, that Government has simply done an act of justice in conferring the title of "Rajah Bahadoor" upon Rai Rajendra Lall Mullick Bahadoor of Calcutta, a man well known for his extensive charities and courteous manners. The public will hail

with delight any higher honors which may be bestowed upon him by the State.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

5. The *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 24th January, contains an article, headed, the "Punchayet or the Rural Police."

The Punchayets.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
January 24th, 1878.

The writer dwells on the important and manifold services gratuitously rendered to the public, by the members of this body, in administering the affairs of village communities; and points out, with regret, that they are treated with great severity by Government. While, on the one hand, their labours are gratuitously given, they are, on the other, threatened with grave penalties on the occasion of any neglect of duty, or failure to carry out any instructions of the authorities. This is really unjust; and, if Government desires to continue the system, it should pay the members of a punchayet for their labours.

The License Tax Bill.

6. The *Pratikár*, of the 25th January, makes the following comments on the License Tax Bill:—

PRATIKAR,
January 25th, 1878.

Section 2.—This is the interpretation clause. We wonder it contains no explanation of the terms which have been adopted in the title; and are of opinion that the words "trades, dealings, and industries" should be explained. If that be done, the poor will be saved much hardship, and public officers will be prevented from much wrong doing. There are many callings, regarding which it may be doubted whether they come within the scope of this Bill. When, moreover, it is proposed to utilize the services of the punchayets in this connection, there is not a doubt that there will be considerable difference of opinion regarding the meanings of these terms; and, in consequence, many will be exposed to much hardship. We do not learn from a perusal of the Bill whether gurus, priests, barbers, and prostitutes will be required to take out licenses; nor can we tell whether a person, who at one time engages in a trade, but does not earn his livelihood mainly from it, will be liable to the tax. Suppose an agriculturist has, on special occasions, lent out money at interest, will this occasional lending out of money be regarded as a dealing; will he have to pay a fine if he fails to take out a license; or is it necessary for him to obtain one before he grants a loan?

Section 4.—This section exempts the cultivators of land from the operation of the Act, provided they do not keep a shop for the sale of the produce of their lands. But will a cultivator be so exempted, if, instead of selling, he advances his grain, at interest? We hope that our "Zillah ká Máliks," the District Collectors, will not be entrusted with the task of deciding such matters. If it be not the object of the Bill to regard the practice of giving *barhi*, (advancing grain at interest), as a trade, the fact should be expressly stated. We need not go far to show, that even our District Collectors are not incapable of putting a wrong construction on such terms as "trades, dealings, &c." Take the case of the house-cess. Who ever thought that begging would be regarded as a trade? Did the framer of the law ever dream of it? If he did, we confess we do not know what stuff he was made of. Whatever he might have been, he was not certainly fit to be a law-giver to an Aryan nation.

Section 12.—According to this section, every one carrying on a trade, dealing, &c., is bound to pay the amount of his license fee before the 1st April of each year, whether his name be or be not in the list published by the Collector. We ask, if a person be not named in this list, how he is to know in what class he has been included, and the amount for which he

is liable? A considerable degree of difficulty and expense will be occasioned, if one, whose name is not included in the list, has to take out a license, or even if he has to prove his inability to pay the fee. A person assessed at one rupee (for it is petty traders only whose names are likely to be omitted from the list) will probably, in order to prove his inability, be put to an expense of five rupees. As no body, especially the rulers, would like to see poor people subjected to such loss, it behoves Government to throw out this provision. If this be done, it will at least prevent much oppression. This section also labors under another grave defect. The system of publishing a list is not suitable, when petty native traders are concerned. These men are mostly illiterate; and are thus not likely to notice a published list. The practice of proclamation by beat of drum is much better. The oppressive character of the house-cess is greatly due to the fact that erroneous lists are prepared and published. We would therefore suggest that, for the first time at least, every trader should be asked to take out a license. This will necessitate some expenditure in the first year, but not afterwards, when only those who commence business will have to be summoned for this purpose. Should the suggestion be carried out, the license tax will be free from much of the unpopularity which attends the house-cess.

Section 14.—The time fixed, (30 days) within which objection is to be made, is, we believe, too short. From our experience of the road cess, specially in connection with the house-tax, we know what this limitation of time amounts to. How many have had opportunity to object to the assessments of their land and houses, under the Road Cess Act, within this period? If the framer of the Bill will only take the trouble to make inquiries into the matter, he will find that most of these petitions were made only after the Tax Collector had asked for the payment of it. We admit this has been brought about, not in a few cases, by irregularities connected with the publication of the list; but, in the majority of instances, it is owing to the peculiar condition of the assesseees. Most of them are illiterate and ignorant of the privilege of making objections within the time. We therefore ask that the period allowed for presenting objections should be extended; or at least so arranged, that they may be heard within one month from the date of the objector being called upon to pay. Otherwise, this tax, like the road cess, will prove oppressive. The penalty, prescribed towards the end of the section, makes us afraid that our prisons will shortly be filled with petty traders for making statements, which, though true, may, through the stratagems of unscrupulous mukhtiaris, be proved false.

Section 15.—In this section, the framer of the Bill (we suppose, Mr. Mackenzie) has betrayed his ignorance, by enacting that the order which may be passed by the Collector, on the petition of an objector, will be final. Had we not read the Bill ourselves, we should have been slow to believe that Mr. Mackenzie could have produced such cruel nonsense. Is he not aware how considerate and liberal the Huzoors in the Mofussil generally are? How many are there in the rank of Collectors, who, unambitious of praise from Government, or undaunted by any fear of blame, would, like Mr. Geddes, act for the good of the people? We want to ask, what makes the sub-deputies and canoongoes so unpopular? Would they be so constantly exposed to blame, if it had not been for the fact that all their faults are overlooked when they act only with a regard to the interests of Government; or, if they had been made to understand that, whether the interests of Government were promoted or not, an honest discharge of duty alone would secure for them the approbation of their superiors. But to whom are we addressing these remarks? A person, who was himself a Collector but a short time since, and who feels that he must regard the local Collectors, notwithstanding

their prejudices, as eminently deserving of confidence ; otherwise he would be passing condemnation on himself.

Section 16.—The expression “annual earnings” in this section is ambiguous. Does it mean earnings from trade only, or does it include the profits which one may derive from agricultural pursuits, or any other means ? We hope the latter is not meant ; if it is, there will be injustice.

Section 20.—We ask whether the penalty, laid down for omission to take out a license within the prescribed period, will be levied from any one, who may enter upon any business towards the close of a year ? Having commenced his trade after the 1st April, he was not certainly liable to take out a license before that date ; and is he to be punished for this, or must his license be applied for before he begins to engage in a trade ? If the latter, it will be a heavy blow struck at the root of all trading operations. How many are there who are possessed of sufficient enterprise to set up a business, the profits of which are not known, if at the outset, he must submit to such needless expenditure ? We would suggest that new traders be exempted, for at least one year, from this tax.

Section 30.—Persons who shall pay this fee are exempted from the house-cess. We believe that the latter ought to be altogether abolished. There are only two classes, who will not profit by this provision, viz. (1) those who pay a road cess upon land, and do not carry on any trade, yet who are unjustly made to pay a house-cess by the “Zillah ká Máliks ;” and (2) those that carry on a trade, but whose yearly earnings do not average even Rs. 50. Persons belonging to the first class are not, under the law, liable to pay the house-cess ; although it is unjustly realized from them. Their exemption, therefore, will be both an act of justice and mercy ; virtues which every ruler ought to possess. Those that belong to the second class are so poor, that, unless turned out of their houses, it is not possible to realize the cess from them. The amount, moreover, they have to pay is so small, that it does not even meet the cost of collection. This oppressive impost should therefore be abolished on the present occasion. We have little more to say regarding this Bill, and are perfectly aware of the effect which our remarks will produce. Yet we cannot conclude this article without offering a few observations on the classification of the traders given in the Bill. These have been divided into seven classes ; and it rests with the Collector to decide to what class a particular person may belong, and the amount of fee to be charged upon him. The chief defect of this Bill is, that the Collectors have been made all in all in every matter pertaining to it. This is probably owing to the fact that the framer of the Bill was but lately a Collector. But what is the use of making a parade of so many laws and regulations, if the rulers confide so implicitly in these officers ; and if they really think that among them, men of like judgment with Kirkwood, Westmacott, and others, are but rare ? Let them invest the Collectors with absolute authority in these things. That would not introduce a more deplorable state of things than the present. Then, also, as now, we shall console ourselves with the reflection that, being weak, we must submit to every hardship. There are no principles laid down whereby the Collector may be guided in the work of classification. He will probably in most cases proceed upon unfounded assumptions. Of objections, there will be many ; and, in order to consider their force, proofs must be had ; and if evidence is required, there will be a re-enactment of those scenes which made the income tax so oppressive. As Magistrates also, the Collectors already possess too much power to make its safe exercise possible ; and it is not advisable to vest them with more. Regarding the persons who have been placed in the seventh class, we agree in the observations made by the

Hindu Patriot. If they are not exempted, it should at least be arranged that, in their case, oral objections will be heard. Even this will save them much trouble.

SADHARANI,
January 27th, 1878.

7. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th January, contains a long article headed, "Mr. Eden." After dwelling on his public acts and disposition before he became

Mr. Eden.

Lieutenant-Governor; his kindness towards the Bengalis; his dislike of all parade; his over-ruling of all law and custom and consideration of merit, when any of his followers had to be provided with a situation; the noble and important part he took on behalf of the tenantry during the indigo riots; his energetic suppression of a revolt among the Mahomedans of the Baraset sub-division; the complete and persistent devotion of the *Hindu Patriot* to him; the editor writes as follows:—We have now come to see that Mr. Eden is indeed an able, energetic, and fearless ruler; but, under his administration, instead of any improvement taking place in the condition of the tenantry, it is likely to grow worse. We hope to show by and bye that the friends of the tenantry are objects of dislike with His Honor; that those who have been for all time notorious for oppressing them are his favorites; that Mr. Eden is not willing to use any means, whereby the ryot might be delivered from the hands of the Zemindar; that he is, on the contrary, exceedingly anxious to provide the Zemindars with legal facilities for setting at naught the combinations of the tenantry; that under his administration, taxes have been imposed which press upon this class alone, while those, which might be levied without affecting them, have been foregone. It is not likely that, under his rule, there will be any education or improvement in the condition of the ryots.

SADHARANI.

8. In another article, the same paper shows, that the native journals are the only sincere and disinterested friends of the tenantry; and that others, such as the

Mr. Eden and the Native Papers.

Christian Missionaries, Civilians, &c., who have affected friendship for them, notwithstanding the good they have done, have been impelled by some other motive. Mr. Eden is, however, hostile to these journals; and has sought to show that the statements contained therein, respecting the condition of the tenantry, have no foundation in truth. His Honor has become very anxious to favor, those who have ever been known as oppressors of their tenants; such as, the indigo planters. Although he is perfectly well acquainted with the doings of this class, he wishes them well.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 28th, 1878.

9. The *Bhārat Sangskārak*, of the 28th January, makes the following observations in an article headed, "A new Civil Service for the Natives of India." We

The Native Civil Service.

are glad to notice that a scheme, for the admission of natives into the Civil Service, is under the consideration of the Government of India, and will shortly have effect. This will remove a long standing complaint, by doing justice to a number of able uncovenanted native officers. But the question arises will natives be deprived of the privilege of competing for the service in England? Already, by reducing the limit of age, an obstacle has been thrown in their way; and if, under the new rules, facilities are offered for entering the service in India, their mouths will be at once stopped. Government will readily say—Why go to England, since the object desired may be had in this country? If such motives have prompted the measure, we do not think that it will be either necessary or desirable. We do not so much regret the fact that, under the British rule, natives of India should be excluded from offices, which can only be obtained by men of the ruling race, as that the system, under which they could compete with Englishmen, should be discontinued. On such competition alone the prosperity of India

depends; and it is necessary that every native of this country should see that it is not in any way interfered with.

10. In noticing the speech of Sir A. Clarke in the Indian Legislative Council on the means of preventing famines, the same paper remarks:—In our opinion,

Means whereby famines may be prevented. when such high authorities as Sir A. Cotton, Mr. Bright, and others differ in their views on this subject, Government should not betray an undue leaning towards any particular side, and needlessly squander public money. In India, both canals and railways are needed. Before, however, engaging in the promotion of either, it behoves Government to make careful enquiries as to whether any measure proposed is likely to promote trade, strengthen the productive powers of the soil, or contribute to the development of the resources of the country. We hope the Famine Commission, shortly to be appointed, will meet with success in its efforts.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
January 28th, 1878.

11. In an article on the License Tax Bill, the *Sahachar*, of the 28th January, gives the contents of the memorial presented by the British Indian Association.

The License Tax Bill.

The editor fully agrees with the views therein propounded, and thus concludes his article:—Government constantly sheds tears over the misfortunes of the poor. That they may not feel any hardship in connection with salt (a hardship they have not known) the duty on this article has been reduced. But will not the rates at which the License Tax is proposed to be levied throw the whole burden on the shoulders of these very men? The charge of sedition is brought against us, if we but make any reference to the subject of race feeling; but we may ask, whether the highest rate has not been fixed out of consideration for the interests of the European merchants. This is a matter of shame. By what means are the people to comprehend the policy of the rulers? by their acts or professions?

SAHACHAR,
January 28th, 1878.

12. The *Banga Mitra*, of the 29th January, writing on the subject of famines, says that, instead of making reductions of expenditure, which generally mean the

How the cost of famine should be met.

abolition of the posts of some low-paid native officers, or the imposition of a tax upon the people to meet the cost of famines, Government should lay a duty on grain exported from this country, and create a special famine fund with the proceeds. As it is, the free exportation of corn is mainly responsible for the frequent recurrence of famines in India.

BANGA MITRA,
January 29th, 1878.

13. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 30th January, after dwelling on the undoubted loyalty of the natives of India, their undeveloped military powers, and the important

Natives should be admitted into the Military service.

services rendered by native troops during the mutiny of 1857, asks Government to grant them admission into this branch of the public service, and train them up as soldiers. This has become particularly necessary now when India is likely to be threatened with a foreign invasion.

HINDU RANJIKA,
January 30th, 1878.

14. Writing on the subject of the Arms' Bill, the *Bishwa Dūt*, of the 30th January, makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 8 of our last

The Arms' Bill.

Report from the *Bhārat Mihir*.

BISHWA DUT,
January 30th, 1878.

15. The *Amrita Bazar Patrikā*, of the 31st January, has an article headed, "Have the poor in Bengal none to befriend them?" from which we extract the

The License Tax.

following observations:—Sir Richard Temple introduced an income tax when he was the Finance Minister. For this he became unpopular with the European community, who still continue to regard him with dislike. For this

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 31st, 1878.

too he lost all popularity with all wealthy and influential natives of this country; yet never for a moment did he think of saddling the poor with a burden which should, in justice, fall only upon the rich. As long as he remained Lieutenant-Governor of these Provinces, no new tax was imposed upon us; the Government of Bengal also had plenty of funds at its disposal. He also set up schools, caused the construction of canals and railways and other works of public utility throughout the country.

All this has, however, changed since Mr. Eden's accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship. While former Governors advocated the cause of either the landlord or tenant, Mr. Eden is, with the exception of a few, hostile to the natives in general. It is during his administration that the rights of the zemindars have been extinguished by the violation of the permanent settlement of land; that the poverty-stricken tenantry have been saddled with a Public Works Cess; and that the License Tax has been imposed to complete the work. But will the country be really ruined, simply because Mr. Eden has chosen to be unkind to it? The memorial put forth by the British Indian Association on this tax is so compromising in its tone, and so completely lacking in earnestness, that it would have been better had it not been presented. The editor, therefore, asks his contemporaries of the Native Press to take up the cause of the voiceless poor, and plead it with all their ability.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 31st, 1878.

16. In reviewing the report, on the administration of the Jail Department, the same paper quotes statistics to prove that a rigorous system of jail discipline, far from being an efficient means of deterring offenders from crime, rather leads to an increase of it. Government, however, is slow to recognize this truth; and it is a fact that, the number of criminals in this country has increased ever since Sir James Stephen enhanced the rigors of the Criminal Procedure Code.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

17. Adverting to the scheme, which is now said to be under the consideration of Government, for the admission of natives into the Civil Service, the same paper observes that Lord Lytton may do much good to the country, if he really desires to give effect to the proposal. But, if, like Mr. Eden, who has proposed to nominate the younger brother of the Maharajah of Durbhunga to the service, His Excellency considers the measure as only a means of humoring men of exalted position, it would be better if no action were taken in the matter. Government has already done much injury to the country by creating the titles of Maharajah, Rajah, &c.; and it will only sow the seeds of discord and ill-will by the creation of a few posts for the gratification of the wealthy.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
February 1st, 1878.

18. The *Moorshedabad Patrika*, of the 1st February, has an article on the License Tax, in which the general rise in prices, which has of late years taken place in this country, and the poverty of the manufacturing and industrial classes, occasioned by British competition, are dwelt upon. The editor fully recognizes the necessity of a tax, from the proceeds of which to meet the cost of famines; but the question is, who is to pay it? Is it not proper that those only, who are well-to-do in life, should be liable to the impost? As it is, the poverty-stricken and the working classes will feel its pressure. A fund, however, might be easily created for famine purposes, without laying on a fresh tax upon the people, by a reduction of public expenditure incurred in the high salaries of civilians and military officers. But who is to do this? The

Lieutenant-Governor has said that the people have no objection to this tax. Who will say nay to this? But the public know whether there is or is not really any objection to the measure.

19. While announcing it, as a piece of good news to the people of Behar, that an inhabitant of that province, the younger brother of the Maharajah of Durbhunga, has been appointed an Assistant Magistrate of Bhagulpore, the *Behar Bandhu*, of the 6th February, remarks:—"Is it right thus to appoint any to the public service without subjecting him to examination?"

BEHAR BANDHU,
February 6th, 1878.

20. The same paper contains an editorial headed "What is loyalty?" The sentiments are identical with those noticed in paragraph 8 of our last Report.

BEHAR BANDHU.

LOCAL.

21. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 1st February, refers to the backward condition of the inhabitants of the Buxa division and the Bhutan Dooars. They are generally illiterate. The state of agriculture is low, while mechanical industry is totally unknown. Although both the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess are levied from them, there are few roads; and those few are out of repair. It is hoped that the attention of Government will be directed to the improvement of the status of the inhabitants, by the establishment of industrial schools and the opening up of the resources of this tract.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
February 1st, 1878.

22. Another, writing to the same paper from Kumrul, in sub-division Serajgunge, asks Government to cause the excavation of the silted up channel of the Fuljor Nadí below that village, from the road cess funds. The inhabitants of no less than fifteen villages will be benefited if the suggestion be carried out.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

23. The *Urdu Guide* has the following *communicated* article, evidently written from Patna. The writer says, that God's anger upon Hindustan is evidenced by the fact, that no year passes without some calamity befalling it. The effects of the Madras famine have not yet passed away. As to the ruined state of Oudh, it is hoped that no other country on earth may be similarly visited. At present the state of Behar, and more especially of Patna, is deplorable. Almost the entire *rabi* crop (upon which the hopes of the population were set, owing to the failure of the *kharif*) has been destroyed by insects. The common staples of peas, pulse, and linseed (wheat and gram not being reckoned amongst these) are nowhere to be found this season. Entire villages are lying desolate, and pergunnahs cleared out. Both the cultivators and zemindars are lamenting over this state of affairs, and the whole of the people suffer from the high prices ruling in the market. The zemindars cannot, except by process of law, recover their rents; for the Act of 1866 presses heavily on them, and affects alike cultivator and landholder; though the courts may thrive under it. In short, there is no resorting to law, nor have they breath enough left in them to do so. How then can the people live? The Government revenue must be paid by all means. The Road Cess presses heavily, while the unlimited and uncertain demands for public works has half killed the people; and besides all this, a famine tax is contemplated. These things are quite revolutionizing the internal affairs of the country; and the capacities of the great suffer, and no one seems to perceive it. But the worst of it is, our Lieutenant-Governor declares it to be exceedingly proper to provide a famine tax, which all the

URDU GUIDE,
February 2nd, 1878.

Remarks on the state of the country in connection with governmental measures.

poor will gladly pay. I know not (the writer says) whence this opinion may be derived, or whether it is only His Honor's private judgment. It may be so. Some flatterer perchance may have agreed with and confirmed this opinion, but it cannot be accepted as being consonant with the wishes of the people in general; and yet who will give heed to this? Alas! it is true we have everything but justice.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th February 1878.